



Maine Farmer.

EZEKIEL HOLMES, & Editors.

S. L. BOARDMAN, & Co., Editors.

Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man

An Experiment in Haying Proposed.

It is not yet certain that the hay crop in Maine, during the coming season, will be sufficiently abundant to allow of any experiments of an uncertain character to be tried with it. We would not propose any new scheme to be tried by our farmers unless the means, the material, were sufficiently plenty to permit a little sacrifice there-without any detriment, in case the experiments were not successful. What we should like to have tried, and all facts connected therewith noted, is the beginning to cut grass as soon as a fair swath can be had, without waiting for the grass to blossom. Then waiting a time for it to grow to a like size, and again cutting and curing as before, and so continuing to cut at intervals until frost comes. We all know that the second crop of grass, the riven or aftermath, as it is sometimes called, is much more palatable to cattle than that which is cut when in blossom. We know that it is more valuable for milk cows than the other, causing them to give a greater flow of milk than the riper hay will. It is thought that it is not so nutritive and will not furnish so good a fodder for horses or oxen that work, as the hay from matured, or rather blossomed grasses will.

Of this there is doubt in our mind, and this is one of the points to be determined by the experiment. Indeed, the points to be decided are principally but two, viz.: 1st, to ascertain if the above method of harvesting the grass crop will give more or a less crop of pounds in the aggregate, than a single crop of land if mowed at the usual times, say once per year. 2d, to ascertain to a certainty the comparative nutritive power, or value between hay cut and cured as above named, and the same amount of hay from matured grass.

We have often thought that if riven was so valuable when made into hay, it would not be a very difficult job to make all our grass, or hay, into riven by beginning to cut as soon as it was in the riven state, and keeping it so throughout the season. This has been rather a favorite idea with us, and we are glad to find, as we have recently, something corroborative, and we think reliable, on the subject.

C. L. Flint, Esq., Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture, in his admirable sketch of his tour in Europe during the last year, mentions several instances where he observed that several crops of grass were cut during a single season, generally on irrigated lands. We copy the following from page 230, respecting the cutting of grass in Lombardy, which gives very good information on this subject. "To me," says he, "previous to seeing this fertile country of Lombardy, made fertile wholly by its admirable system of irrigation, the results that I had frequently read of—seven, eight and nine cuttings a year, always appeared chimerical, but after traveling through the watered district, I am prepared to believe that an enormous quantity of grass can be cut from it. Another thing has impressed me strikingly here, and that is, the Italians understand the period at which grass should be cut to make the most of it, better than we do. I nowhere saw grass allowed to stand even into blossoming; it was cut in a very green, succulent state, when full of its sweet juices. In hundreds of instances, perhaps thousands, I saw men and women, more frequently the latter, mowing grass less than six inches high, often less than four, and very often and in many counties, cutting grass that our farmers would never think of cutting. So careful and so saving are they in all parts of the continent, that grass is cut very green, and very often close to the ground universally. They often apply a dressing of liquid manure immediately after cutting."

There are meadows near Edinburgh that often produce some fifty, sixty, and some even as high as eighty tons of green feed per acre. On another page he observes that the hay taken from the (irrigated) meadows, "is used to feed working cattle and cows."

It will be seen from the above that most of the lands from which the grass is removed thus often are stimulated to growth by being well irrigated or watered. Other stimulants are also oftentimes used. It is applied in various ways. The best mode of course, is to bring it from a higher reservoir where that can be done, but they will apply it in some way or other. He states that he saw "in innumerable instances, the liquid manure carried out upon the backs of women and applied by the slowest possible process, distribution by the hand." We do not mention this last as worthy of imitation, but only to show the faith these people have in the value of such applications, and the surprising results derived from them. In some instances "a light dressing of super-phosphate, mixed with nitrate of soda, and sulphate of ammonia was applied after every second crop."

We think it a good time to call attention to the above subject, and suggest trials of the process named. When there is opportunity to apply water at little expense it will be well to do it, but in any case, some quickly acting stimulating dressing is advisable after the removal of the hay. A trial of a quarter, a half or a whole acre may give a good demonstration of facts and lead to improved practices.

Not too Late.

The late rains have brightened the prospects for grass, and the warm days since the rain have given all crops a vigorous start. Now is the time to be diligent with the hoe in garden and field, and while giving the early plants the fostering care of good culture, to keep back at the same time all invaders in the shape of noxious weeds, destructive insects, worms, &c. It is not too late to give corn a special dressing of ashes, guano or super-phosphate about each hill, and such an application will be found great value in hastening the crop. It is not too late to plant fodder corn, and even if our hay crop should be better than we anticipate, the milch cows will relish a feed of it during the early autumn, and it can be cured as an addition to the winter forage. Sheep, horses and cattle eat it with avidity.

Nankin, or Chinese Sheep.

There seems to be considerable inquiry about this new breed of sheep, and we think it will be but few years are they will become quite common among us, as their desirable qualities are made known.

This breed of sheep was imported from China, and first introduced into this country, a few years since, by Theodore Smith, Esq., of Norwalk, Conn.

The first importation consisted of three ewes, and in twenty months from the time of their arrival, Mr. Smith had a clear increase of more than seventy sheep and lambs from these three. This statement at first seems almost incredible, but it is published in the Albany *Country Gentleman* of March 5th, '63, over his own name, and from this and the statements of other reliable gentlemen in regard to the wonderful fecundity of this breed of sheep, no doubt whatever is to be attached to the above. They breed twice a year, and have from three to five lambs at a time. Mr. Smith, in an account of these sheep, says: "The live weight of the bucks is from 175 to 200 lbs, and the ewes proportionately heavy. The quality of the mutton is the finest I ever saw, being entirely free from the strong taste common with most other breeds of sheep. The wool is coarse and long. They are easy keepers and do not jump fences—a low stone wall is sufficient to stand them off. They are quite hardy, and stand our northern winters equal to any sheep I ever saw. Their great recommendation lies in the quality and quantity of the mutton that can be produced in a short time." Mr. Smith also made several experiments in crossing them with other breeds and with good results. They were crossed with the Leicesters, Merino, and Saxon—giving three lambs each at a birth, and Mr. Smith states that any cross with the Nankin will be sterile.

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THE MAINE

The Record of the War.

From the Rappahannock—Our Forces will hold the South Bank of the River.

New York, June 9. The *Times* Headquarters Army of the Potomac dispenses, dated Feb. 1, P. M., says the enemy's camp unchanged. The camp is taken by Hovey's division on the south bank of the Rappahannock on Friday evening is still peacefully held. The only hostile manifestations during the last twenty-four hours has been an occasional shell from one four and a half inch Rodman gun, stationed on the Deep side of the river. Our skirmishers hold the line of Deep Run and the Bowing Green Roads, while the enemy are in plain sight about one-quarter of a mile further on.

Encouraging Progress of the Siege of Vicksburg.

New York, June 9. The *Tribune* has a letter from its correspondent stating that up to May 31st the sieges of Vicksburg and Port Hudson's farms were beginning to tell on the foe. The capture or surrender of the place was considered certain and that speedily. Our forces were in fine spirits and our siege guns within pistol shot of the enemy's works. All apprehensions of an attack upon our rest by Johnston are groundless. We hold all the passes to Vicksburg, and have completely blocked them against any possible advance.

Reinforcements sent to Gen. Grant.

New York, June 12. The *Times* Headquarters of the 10th Corps, Gen. Grant's, has been largely reinforced and additional troops are still being hurried forward to his assistance.

The movements of troops through the city for the past ten days, both by land and water, have been very active. The strengthening of the army of the Mississippi has not weakened in any degree the defenses of Kentucky; though many of the old regiments have been taken away from our service, the new ones are rapidly filling up to be of use, it would be inconstant upon us to use every effort; but we know each step of that kind on our part would increase the mischief.'

On the 29th Mr. Robtuck gave notice that at early day he should move that an address be presented to the Crown praying that His Majesty would cause negotiations to be entered into with the European powers with a view to the recognition of the Confederate States. Lord Montague gave notice that he would move an amendment to this.

The *Army and Navy Gazette* looks during the early part of June for a most remarkable series of operations in various parts of America, on which will depend the summer campaign. It says : 'The war will not be decided in the end of the month. So far as the North is concerned there are signs, however, that a civil conflict may at any time break out within the borders of either or both belligerents.'

Poland.

The 25th the insurgents, under Orlinski, gained an important victory over the Russians near Koropin, in the government of Kalisch. Orlinski was attacked by six companies of Russian troops, 150 of whom were killed and put to flight.

Gen. Grant communicates with the fleet by signals at night and day, bombarding them, it is thought. The firing of the enemy's mortars was heard at intervals of two seconds all night, and the firing was continued this morning.

WASHINGTON, June 13. The following extracts are from a letter of an officer dated Haines' Bluff, Miss., June 1st, and was to-day received in this city. The writer states : 'After a hard march through the prairie in the heat of the day, we reached a small town in the valley of the Yazoo, where we were captured in the recent fight, confesses that our cavalry forces whipped Fitz Huzz Lee at Brinkley Station.'

Everything Going well at Vicksburg and Port Hudson.

WASHINGTON, June 13. The following items are taken from the Richmond papers of the 11th :

JACKSON, Miss. Our scouts report the pickets around Vicksburg at two miles deep. Every means of approach is closely guarded. The greatest care and courage is required to reach Vicksburg.

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The insurgents band in Vicksburg have been dispersed.

Ozarkowski's corps has been defeated by the Russians.

Vicksburg is still closely invested. The siege is progressing favorably. The despatches are represented to be such as to show that Grant fears neither the enemy in his front nor in his rear.

CHICAGO, June 11. 'A special Memphis dispatch dated the 8th, says the steamer *Summary*, from Young's Point at 8 o'clock on Friday evening, had a crew of 100 men, 3000 men, was sent up the river to Santa, thirty miles below Yazoo city. He arrived there the 10th, and learned that a rebel force under Gen. Wirt Adams was not far off, and immediately marched to meet him.'

At 10 o'clock on the morning of Thursday he came up with the pickets of the rebels. A brisk fight followed, and a total rout ensued. Our loss was one killed and seventeen wounded. We captured 100 prisoners. The enemy's loss in killed and wounded was considerable. The rebels were 2000 strong.

There was no perceptible change before the enemy's works at Vicksburg. Gen. Johnston is said to have made up his mind to hold the place as long as he could, and to do to it the best he could.

On the 27th, when the rebels were 2000 men, Gen. Osterhaus was watching his movements with a sufficient force to checkmate any demonstration he may make.

Matters at Fredericksburg.—No Changes in the Positions of the Armies.

NEW YORK, June 11. The *Herald* of Washington dispatches : 'It is now known in the public mind that the force of the rebels at the foot of Fredericksburg. Twenty-eight pieces are visible in the rebel batteries opposite our left, some of them 20-pounder Parrots. A deserter who came over yesterday states that the rebels have two grand divisions in front of the division of the 6th corps which has crossed the river. The rebels are to be in full force in and about Fredericksburg.'

The Rebels Attack MILLION'S Band, and are Defeated.

WASHINGTON, June 11. An unofficial dispatch from the vicinity of Vicksburg, Gen. Banks is said to have reconnoitered the place to the best of his knowledge, and to have sent a force to cross below the bridge with an army of twenty thousand men. Gen. Osterhaus was watching his movements with a sufficient force to checkmate any demonstration he may make.

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There was no perceptible change before the enemy's works at Vicksburg. Gen. Johnston is said to have made up his mind to hold the place as long as he could, and to do to it the best he could.

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THE MAINE FARMER: AN

Poetry.

For the Maine Farmer.

I know but little of thy ways,
Our souls are far apart;
And yet a look is in this eye
Which, after I have passed away,
Will tell me all thy ways.

Is there 'twixt us some secret tie,
And this its power of dumb reply?

Is it that thou hast loved thy friend
With whole heart no cheer nor end?

Or is it that thy love did twin
As my love fancies over mine?

Is it that now in time of grief
Thine heart is gathered close?

Or is it that thy cheek should shed
Over the dust of my heart's deal?

Is it that thou hast laid thy head
To feel how truly thou art?

With love whole heart no cheer nor end?

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Some field where myrtle, violet grows,
May smiling flesh in dewy green,

To summer's morn's revising sheen;

Another lawn with shadow deep seen,

Where falls a shadow dark and seen;

Or is it that thy love did twin
As my love fancies over mine?

Some unchanging loving Hand
Which cast on thine hand a spell,

From mingling dross to dust gold,

That hand so tenderly bent,

That hand so fondly bent,

Is it that thy love did twin
As my love fancies over mine?

Some unchanging loving Hand
Which cast on thine hand a spell,

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AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY

NEWSPAPER.

PALMER'S ARTIFICIAL LEG.

One, 19 Green Street, Boston, Mass.

The Only Artificial Leg Manufactured in

New England. Patented by Govern-

ment.

This is a well calculated Artificial Leg, which re-

ceives the name of the Farmer, as it is worn up-wards

of the thousand persons, represented by every profession, oc-

cupation and trade in life.

It is easily and gracefully worn as so applied, to de-

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